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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,960	09/28/2001	Paivi Jaana Kukkola	30879E/N1CGC	5476

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THOMAS HOXIE
NOVARTIS, CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ONE HEALTH PLAZA 430/2
EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

TRUONG, TAMTHOM NGO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1624	

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/966,960	KUKKOLA, PAIVI JAANA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tamthom N. Truong	1624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-43 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-11, and 24, drawn to compounds and composition of formula (I) with Q as **-C(O)R1**, classified in class 560, subclass 35.
 - II. Claims 1, and 12-17, drawn to compounds and composition of formula (I) with Q as **5-tetrazole**, classified in class 548, subclasses 250, 252, 253, etc.
 - III. Claims 18-24, 26, and 27, drawn to “method for the prevention and/or treatment of conditions responsive to thyromimetic activity”, and “method of lowering LDL cholesterol”, classified in class 514, subclasses 381, 539, etc.
 - IV. Claims 28-37, drawn to the method for the preparation of compounds of formula XIB, classified in class 548, subclasses 250, 252, 253; class 560, subclass 35.
 - V. Claims 38-43, drawn to another method for the preparation of a compound of formula XIB, classified in class 548, subclasses 250, 252, 253; class 560, subclass 35.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

- a. The inventions of groups I and II differ from each other because each group is drawn to a different set of compounds that is distinct and patentable over each other. Essentially, these are two independent inventions as compounds of one group can be utilized alone, and not in combination of those in other groups. Note, with a variable core as such, the common property is not enough to keep two groups in the same Markush claim. Furthermore, a prior art that

renders obvious one invention would not do so to the other. Thus, restriction for examination purpose as indicated is proper. However, should applicant traverse on the ground that the two groups are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the two groups to be obvious variant or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the invention unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

b. Inventions of Groups (I and II) vs. the invention of group III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the compounds in groups I and II can be used to treat another disorder, or used in agriculture.

c. Inventions groups IV and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case it is obvious that the process of preparation in group IV has reaction sequence, and starting materials that are different from the process of preparation in group V.

2. A telephone call was made to Mr. Norbert Gruenfeld on 4-3-03 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but a written restriction is preferred.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamthom N. Truong whose telephone number is 703-305-4485. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-5:00) & every Saturday morning (starting from 4-7-03).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached on 703-308-4716. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.



**Tamthom N. Truong
Examiner
Art Unit 1624**

April 21, 2003